REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the non-final Office Action of June 11, 2004 the Applicant respectfully submits the following remarks against the Examiner's rejections.

Claim Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2 and 7 - 11 as being anticipated by US Patent No. 6, 149, 256 (McIntyre et al.). It would appear that the Examiner's rejection of these claims hinges upon an unfair interpretation of what constitutes a transport assembly as defined by claim 1 of the present application and as such it is respectfully requested that the Examiner reconsider this rejection based upon the comments provided herein.

The present invention as described resides in a cartridge for insertion into a printer that incorporates the print media, ink storage and the media transportation mechanism in the one unit or housing. The benefits of providing such a cartridge are discussed in detail within the description but in essence provide a compete unit wherein the print media is fed out of the cartridge accurately and with minimum initial contamination, "as the mechanism and print media are housed within an enclosed unit". The print media transport mechanism (7) is introduced in the description on page 4, lines 1-5 as being disposed within the print media housing portion (3) such that upon operation it "drives the print media (8) out through the print media exit opening".

With this in mind, claim 1 defines the cartridge including "a transport assembly adapted to cooperate with a powered gear provided on the printing device to thereby eject the print media from the casing". Whilst a "transport assembly" could be in a number of forms it must still act to perform its function, namely to "eject the print media from the casing".

In this regard, to consider the springs (31) of the McIntyre et al. system to constitute a transport assembly as defined by present claim 1 is an unfair interpretation of the claim. It is agreed that the springs (31) of the described system do act to urge the print media against the pick up roller (58) such that the pick up roller (58) can eject the print media from casing (30). However in this instance the pick up roller (58) is the "transport assembly" which cooperates with a powered gear on the printing device and not the springs (31). It is considered that a person skilled in the art would clearly identify the term "transport assembly" to include more than merely springs which act upon the media.

It is therefore argued that McIntyre et al. does not disclose or even suggest providing a cartridge for use with a digital printing device that incorporates the print media, ink supply and transport assembly within the one unit. Therefore reconsideration of the rejection of claim 1 and its dependents is respectfully requested.

The Lee citation does not provide, nor suggest, combining the transportation mechanism with the print media in the one casing. The Lee citation is directed towards minimising the installation space of an optional cassette used in an electrophotographic process engine by simplifying the configuration of the optional cassette and for removing jammed paper easily. As shown in Fig. 2, 3A and 3B, the system as proposed by Lee requires a number of individual cassettes which fit together to perform the function of the cartridge of the present

invention. As shown, the media is supplied in a paper cassette 4, which is inserted into the optional cassette module 3. The paper cassette as shown is essentially an open topped tray upon which the paper is placed and biased towards the pick up roller to aid in the transportation of the individual sheets of paper, and therefore there is no print media exit opening formed in the paper cassette 4. The pick up roller 6 is contained in the optional cassette module 3 and is therefore remote from the paper cassette 4.

What is therefore taught by the Lee citation is the configuration of an optional cassette upon which an electrophotographic process engine can be installed, that employs a shorter transport path through which the paper can pass from the cassette to the engine which does not extend beyond the body of the engine and hence minimises space. There is no disclosure, nor is there intended to be any disclosure of a cartridge for insertion into a digital printing device which has a casing having a first portion for housing print media and a pickup roller assembly arranged at least partially within the first portion of the casing for transporting the sheets through an exit formed in the first portion of the housing.

The Applicant submits that this response is fully responsive to all of the rejections raised in the Office Action. Accordingly, further reconsideration of the Application is respectfully requested.

Very respectfully,

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